

REMARKS

Claims 2-6, 8, 10, 11, 13, 15-20, and 22-33 were previously pending in this application. By this amendment, claims 3, 4, 10, 13, 18-20, 25, 28, 29, 31 and 32 have been amended, and claims 8, 15-17, 27 and 30 have been canceled. Applicant reserves the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the canceled claims. No new claims have been added. As a result, claims 2-6, 10, 11, 13, 18-20, 22-26, 28, 29 and 31-33 are pending for examination with claims 3, 4 and 25 being independent claims. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of these amendments and the following arguments.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112

In the Office Action dated December 2, 2005, claim 10 was rejected as being indefinite because the phrase “the plastic material” lacks antecedent basis. Claim 10 has been amended to provide antecedent basis for this phrase.

Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102

In the Office Action dated December 2, 2005, claims 2, 3, 6 and 23-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Brooke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,914,118). Applicant has amended independent claim 3 to more clearly distinguish over Brooke.

Independent claim 3 is directed to an insert for placement in a door light. The insert includes a substantially planar top surface defining a plane, and a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the top surface. The raised portion includes at least two features which are raised with respect to the plane of the top surface, the raised portion has a substantially uniform configuration, and the raised portion defining an upper surface. The at least two features on the raised portion include at least two raised concentric rings substantially centered on the insert. As amended, the insert also includes a *substantially planar bottom surface spaced apart from and disposed substantially in parallel in relation to the top surface, and a recessed portion at least partially surrounded by the bottom surface. The recessed portion includes at least two features which are recessed with respect to the bottom surface, and the recessed portion defining a lower surface. The at least two features on the recessed portion include at least two recessed concentric rings which substantially correspond in shape and size to the at least two raised*

concentric rings on the raised portion, and the distance between the upper surface of the raised portion and the lower surface of the recessed portion is substantially uniform throughout.

Brooke is directed to a process for annealing patterned glass where the pattern formed on one surface of the glass creates thicker and thinner portions of glass. This process includes passing the patterned glass through a plurality of heaters to reduce the temperature gradient between the thicker and thinner portions. This helps to reduce compressive stresses in the thinner portions and tensile stresses in the thicker portions of the glass. As depicted in FIGS. 5 and 6, Brooke discloses that the patterned glass may include a bulls-eye pattern including concentric rings 8 which form the thicker portions of the glass, and the areas 9 between the rings which form the thinner glass portions.

To further the prosecution of this application, Applicant has amended claim 3 in a manner which clearly distinguishes over Brooke. In particular, Brooke fails to teach or suggest an insert including a recessed portion at least partially surrounded by a bottom surface, where the recessed portion includes at least two recessed concentric rings which substantially correspond in shape and size to the at least two concentric rings on the raised portion and where the distance between the upper surface of the raised portion and the lower surface of the recessed portion is substantially uniform throughout. Support for this amendment may be found at least on page 6, lines 7-31, and also in FIGS. 3A and 3B.

As mentioned above, Brooke discloses patterned glass including thicker and thinner portions, which may include a bulls-eye pattern. As shown in FIG. 6 of Brooke, the bulls-eye pattern is formed into the upper surface of the glass. The variation in thickness between the thicker and thinner portions of the glass is thus a result of the substantially flat bottom surface. Brooke is directed to solving a problem which is created by thicker portions of glass being adjacent to thinner portions. However, as clarified by this amendment, claim 3 is directed to an insert having both a raised portion and a recessed portion where the distance between the upper surface of the raised portion and the lower surface of the recessed portion is substantially uniform throughout. Brooke clearly does not teach or suggest a recessed portion, nor does Brooke teach or suggest a distance between the top surface and the bottom surface of the insert to be substantially uniform throughout. Because Brooke is directed to a process for specifically annealing glass which has thicker and thinner portions formed between an upper and lower surface, Brooke teaches away from a patterned glass having this uniformity.

For at least these reasons, claim 3 is patentable over Brooke. Claims 2, 6, 23 and 24 all depend from claim 3 and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103

Brook et al. in View of Pascucci

In the Office Action dated December 2, 2005, claims 4, 5, 8, 13, 15-17 and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Pascucci (U.S. Patent No. 1,504,970). Claim 18 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Pascucci and further in view of Dilouya (U.S. Patent No. 4,823,246). Claim 20 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Pascucci and further in view of Fujisawa (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,464).

As discussed below, Applicant amended independent claim 4 to further clarify over Brooke and Pascucci. Applicant has also canceled independent claim 15 and dependent claims 8, 16 and 17 to advance the prosecution of this application. Claims 13 and 18-20 have been amended for additional clarity and also to now depend from independent claim 4.

Independent claim 4 is directed to an insert for placement in a door light. The insert includes a substantially planar top surface defining a plane, and a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the top surface. The raised portion includes at least two features which are raised with respect to the plane of the top surface, and the raised portion has a substantially uniform configuration, where the at least two features on the raised portion include at least two raised concentric rings. The insert further includes an outer edge of the raised portion, and at least one truncated side provided on a portion of the outer edge and interrupting at least an outermost concentric ring, where the truncated side is substantially perpendicular to the planar top surface. As amended, claim 4 now clarifies that the *truncated side is substantially linear, and that at least an outermost concentric ring is incomplete.*

Brooke is discussed above.

Pascucci is directed to an optical system which includes a lens with a smooth outer convex face and a corrugated stepped inner face which has angled steps or miters, as illustrated in FIG. 1.

When making the above rejection of independent claim 4, the Examiner states that it is *assumed* that the outer edge of the raised portion of Brooke includes at least one truncated side provided on a portion of the outer edge and interrupting at least an outer concentric ring.

Applicant respectfully disagrees with this statement. As discussed above, Brooke discloses a process of annealing patterned glass, and further discloses that the glass may include a bulls-eye, or bullion pattern. Brooke states that the bulls-eye patterns may be spaced apart on the upper surface of the glass and the glass can be cut into smaller sheets where each sheet has a central bullion. (Brooke, Col. 3, lines 50-58). Brooke does not teach or suggest at least one truncated side as assumed in the Office Action.

Perhaps in recognition that Brooke does not teach or suggest a truncated side, the Examiner then looks to Pascucci and states that in FIG. 1, Pascucci discloses an optical system which includes concentric rings, a raised portion, and two truncated sides on the outer edge and interrupting ring 13 where the truncated side is substantially perpendicular to the planar top near reference numeral 23. The Office Action states that it would have been obvious to include the truncated side on the outer edge and interrupting the outer most concentric ring as shown by Pascucci to present a transition from the outer most ring to the planar surface. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Without conceding that there is motivation to combine Brooke and Pascucci, Applicant believes that neither Brooke, nor Pascucci, nor the combination of the two, teach or suggest at least one truncated side, as recited in claim 4. As described above, Pascucci has a corrugated inner face with angled steps. As shown by the dotted lines in FIG. 2 of Pascucci, these angled steps are arranged such that starting from the center of the lens and moving towards an outer edge, each step extends partially over the previous step. These create an overhang at the apex of each step. Pascucci does not show a truncated side because these “overhangs” do not interrupt a ring. Rather, in Pascucci, these steps extend partially over the previous step, but do not alter or truncate the ring.

To further the prosecution of the present application, Applicant amended claim 4 to provide additional clarifying language for the claim phrase “truncated side”. Claim 4 now recites that the truncated side is substantially linear, and that at least an outermost concentric ring is incomplete. In contrast, the “overhangs” of Pascucci do not interrupt a ring such that the ring

is incomplete. Furthermore, Pascucci does not teach or suggest any substantially linear truncations.

For at least these reasons, claim 4 is patentable over Brooke and Pascucci. Claim 5 depends from claim 4 and is patentable for at least the same reasons.

Claims 13 and 18-20 have been amended to now depend from independent claim 4 and are also patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Brook et al. in View of Fujisawa

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Fujisawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,002,464). Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Pascucci and further in view of Fujisawa et al.

Without acceding to the propriety of these rejections, claims 10 and 26 depend on independent claims 3, 4, respectively, and are thus patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, the rejections of these claims should be withdrawn.

Brook et al. in View of Kenny

Claims 11, 27-28 and 31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Kenny (U.S. Patent No. 4,184,480). Claims 29 and 30 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Kenny and further in view of Fujisawa. Claim 32 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Kenny and further in view of Pascucci.

Without acceding to the propriety of these rejections, Applicant has canceled independent claim 27 and dependent claim 30 to advance the prosecution of this application.

Also, claim 11 depends from independent claim 3 and is patentable for at least the same reasons set forth above. Also, claim 28, 31 and 32 have been amended to now depend from independent claim 25 and are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, the rejection of these claims should be withdrawn.

Brook et al. in View of Dilouya

Claims 22, 25 and 33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Brooke et al. in view of Dilouya. Applicant has amended independent claim 25 to more clearly distinguish over the combination of Brooke and Dilouya.

Independent claim 25 is directed to an insert for placement in a door light. The insert includes a substantially planar top surface defining a plane, and a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the top surface. The raised portion includes at least two features which are raised with respect to the plane of the top surface, and the raised portion has a substantially uniform configuration. The at least two features on the raised portion include at least two raised concentric rings, defining an inner ring and an outer ring, where the maximum height of the inner ring is greater than the maximum height of the outer ring. As amended, *the maximum height of the raised portion is at the center of the concentric rings, and the maximum height of each concentric ring decreases progressively towards the outer edge of the raised portion.*

Brooke is discussed above.

Dilouya is directed to an indicator light for a motor vehicle. The light includes a point light source, a flat closure glass 20 situated in front of the light source, and a flat or concave mirror 30 positioned behind the light source.

In the Office Action, the Examiner recognizes that in Brooke, that maximum height of the inner ring is not greater than the maximum height of the outer ring. The Examiner states that Dilouya discloses a light insert 20 with concentric rings having different zones with differently sized grooves/peaks where having the different zones changes the reflective properties. In Dilouya, the maximum height of the peaks is closer to the outer edge and the height of the peaks is at a minimum at the center. The Examiner contends that to give the light insert different reflective properties, it would have been obvious to have the projecting portion with a maximum height at the center and the height of the peaks decreasing at a constant rate in a radial direction from the maximum height at the center to the minimum at the outer edge. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Dilouya is directed to an improved Fresnel lens. A typical Fresnel lens would reflect light well, but the beam of light obtained through the lens would have visible light zones corresponding to the ring-shaped spherical refraction surfaces, and dark zones corresponding to the steps between those surfaces. (Dilouya, Col. 1, lines 41-65). In Dilouya, the glass 20

operates similar to a Fresnel lens, having successive prisms or grooves for deflecting light rays by refraction. However, in Dilouya, the grooves have a very narrow V-shaped profile, and are disposed in three ring-shaped zones where the grooves are the same size and shape in each zone, and the grooves are deeper in the zones away from the center. One of the reasons stated in Dilouya for why this design works well is because the profile of the grooves 21 remains identical over the entire zone (i.e. the zone does not have a well-defined focus). This design helps to minimize the alternation between light and dark zones. (Dilouya, Col. 3, lines 38-48).

In view of the above-mentioned teaching in Dilouya, it would not be obvious to modify Brooke to include an inner ring and an outer ring, where the maximum height of the inner ring is greater than the maximum height of the outer ring as recited in claim 25. At most, Dilouya teaches grooves which are separated into a plurality of zones, where all of the grooves in each zone have the same height.

However, to further the prosecution of the present application, Applicant has amended claim 25 to more clearly distinguish over both Brooke, Dilouya, and the combination of the two. As amended, independent claim 25 recites that the maximum height of the raised portion is at the center of the concentric rings, and the maximum height of each concentric ring decreases progressively towards the outer edge of the raised portion. Brooke teaches rings all having the same maximum height. Dilouya teaches rings of the same maximum height clustered together into zones. Furthermore, with these zones, the maximum height of each ring does not decrease in either direction. Rather, the maximum height would only change at the zone boundary lines.

For at least these reasons, claim 25 is patentable over the combination of Brooke and Dilouya.

Without acceding to the propriety of this rejection, claims 22 and 33 depend from independent claim 3 and are patentable for at least the same reasons discussed above.

Accordingly, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly Cited References

With this Amendment, Applicant has submitted two new references in an accompanying Information Disclosure Statement. Meyer (U.S. Design Patent No. 185,976), and Slick (U.S. Patent No. 2,158, 089), were both recently obtained in connection with a related design patent

application. As set forth below, independent claims 3, 4, and 25 are all patentable over these references.

In particular, independent claims 3, 4, and 25 all recite an insert for placement in a door wherein the insert has a raised portion which includes at least two raised concentric rings. Meyer fails to teach or suggest at least this claimed feature.

Independent claims 3, 4, and 25 also recite a top surface, with a raised portion at least partially surrounded by the top surface, where the raised portion includes at least two features which are raised with respect to the plane of the top surface. Slick fails to teach or suggest at least this claimed feature.

For at least these reasons, independent claims 3, 4, and 25 are patentable over the newly cited references.

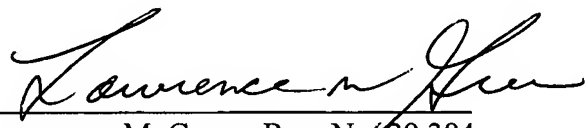
CONCLUSION

A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. The Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below if this communication does not place the case in condition for allowance.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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